

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1714
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is working towards formulating a `concert of democracies` to strike at the root of international terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of countries agreeing to cooperate in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (c) As a victim of terrorism for over two decades, India has consistently drawn the international community's attention to the need to prioritise the fight against terrorism. The tragic events of September 11 have brought a heightened awareness and urgency in the fight against terrorism. In our interactions with other countries, we have emphasised that terrorism is a global menace which cannot be compartmentalised and that the fight against it has to go beyond the immediate and has to be comprehensive, global and sustained. India has also conveyed that there can be no justification for acts of terrorism : political, religious, ethnic, ideological or any other. International measures to counter terrorism should encompass not only the perpetrators of terrorist acts, but also those who incite, support, finance or extend safe havens to terrorists.

India welcomes all international efforts, including efforts under the UN, to counter terrorism. In this framework, India has welcomed the Security Council Resolution 1373 of September 28, 2001. India has initiated a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) to strengthen the legal framework in countering terrorism.

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on November 10, 2001, Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee forcefully conveyed India's point of view, including our concerns on cross border terrorism.

There is heightened awareness and enhanced cooperation amongst the international community for combating terrorism.